

VOTE  
6/25/19

**TESTIMONIAL  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGE**

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

In Memoriam

(71)

Mrs. Mary Armetter Larkins

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Detroit City Council, solemnly pause today to honor the memory of the late MARY ARMETTER LARKINS, a beloved 100-year old matriarch who was granted her angel wings on June 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, MARY ARMETTER LARKINS was born to the union of Jeff and Annie Belle Glenn on December 25, 1918, in Thomasville, Georgia. She was the sixth child blessed to this union. Four of her siblings preceded her in death. At an early age, MARY accepted Christ as her personal savior at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia. MARY was united in marriage with Amos W. Larkins in 1939. To this union they were blessed with three children: Willie Bell (deceased), Jacqueline and Dereck (deceased); and

WHEREAS, In 1944, MARY relocated to Detroit, Michigan. She began her long career at Harper Hospital in 1945, working in the Uniform Department. MARY was later transferred to the Nursing Department as a Nurse Assistant. She retired from Harper Hospital after thirty-two years of dedicated service. MARY was a woman of strong faith and church was a very important part of her life. In 1956, she joined Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. John Truitt and continued to attend for the next sixty-three years. MARY was a devoted member and served on the Mother's Board, the Adult Choir, and as a Leader for the Rose of Sharon Missionary Circle. She also enjoyed being an active member of The Jolly Social Club; and

WHEREAS, Never one to meet a stranger, MARY possessed a loving spirit and an out-going personality with the willingness to help others. She was such a compassionate and humble person that loved to spread joy to all who graced her presence. MARY was an avid gardener and enjoyed taking care of her flowers! She also loved to bake cakes; 7Up pound cake was her favorite cake to make. MARY leaves to treasure and cherish her memory, her daughter, Jacqueline Larkins; granddaughter, Ferrari Griffin; her sister, Ollie Lawson; and a host of other relatives and lifelong friends. MRS. MARY ARMETTER LARKINS has been a good servant and ensured that her impact would be forever embedded in the hearts of those she cherished for years to come. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones, hereby expresses condolences and joins with family and friends in honoring the life and legacy of MRS. MARY ARMETTER LARKINS. She will be greatly missed and her contributions and the lessons she taught will live on forever.

Brenda Jones  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Manya Shifford  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Jeanne Lynn  
COUNCIL MEMBER

Steve Ben  
COUNCIL MEMBER

Rachel Castañeda-Józay  
COUNCIL MEMBER

Babs Hoban  
COUNCIL MEMBER

André J. Griffin  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 15, 2019  
DATE

*Testimonial Resolution*

72

***Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton***

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton was born November 9, 1936, to loving and devoted parents, the late Frank and Mary Pauling who were the owners of Paris-N-Restaurant in the city of Detroit. Barbara Jean Helton is the second child of five siblings; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton was born and raised in the city of Detroit. After putting her education on hold to raise her seven children, she pursued a high school education and earned a high school diploma from Ferndale High School. Barbara Helton also attended evening classes at Wayne State University Business Law School and Detroit Academy of Nursing School; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton married in 1954 to the late John Harbin, and to this union was born seven beautiful children, Rodrick, Debra, John, Reginald, Stephanie, Sandra, and Anthony. Then in 1972 Barbara married the late Robert L. Helton, and to this union, no children were born; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton's Christian roots began in the Church of God In Christ, where she received Christ into her life at the age of eight years old. Barbara continued as an active member and due to her dedication and commitment to Christ, a Sunday School Teacher of Clinton Street Greater Bethlehem Temple Church; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton was self-employed as a Nanny for Bernie and Donna Smilovitz, caring for their two sons Zachary (Zach) and Jacob (Jake) who by loving choice will always be her family; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton is a strong supporter and builder of her community. She has served as a treasurer and member of the Fitzgerald Community Council, as well as a member of the San Juan Block Club; **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton, a devoted homemaker enjoys gardening, fishing, singing, praying, reading the Bible, and attending church. During Barbara's leisure time she uses her creative talents for Hat making and interior decorating. Barbara Jean Helton always finds time to spend with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and friends; **NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE**

**RESOLVED:** That Council Member Roy McCalister Jr., and the entire Detroit City Council honors Mrs. Barbara Jean Helton with this **Testimonial Resolution**. May the Blessings of God continue to be upon you.

CITY CLERK 2019 JUN 20 AM10:26

*Mary Shiffen* *Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Joyce Jones* *Barbara Helton*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Sylvia B.* *Rodrick Helton*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Jaqueline Castañeda-Jópez* *Jones*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 26, 2019

DATE

*Testimonial Resolution***BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND***'In Recognition of Your Trinity Inaugural Celebration'*

**WHEREAS,** **BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND** became a licensed Minister in 1973 and was later ordained as an Elder in 1977 at the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Bland has faithfully served God and His people through the gift of teaching and community service. **BISHOP FLETCHED BLAND** has committed over 30 years of service and leadership through ministry, community service, serving as a Board of Director for several organizations, and through the power of education; **and**

**WHEREAS,** **BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND** has served as a Sunday School Teacher, a Bible Instructor, a member of a Prayer Band, a leader of Jail Ministry and the Young Men's Association. Bishop Bland has officiated weddings, preached eulogies, and lead Vacation Bible School all within 30 years. Bishop Bland's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed, as he has received more than five Spirit of Detroit Awards for Community Service from the Detroit City Council and seven Distinguished Service Awards from Wayne County; **and**

**WHEREAS,** **BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND** has over forty Professional Development Certifications that he's utilized in his roles over the years, some including his position as Executive Director and certified Mediator with the State of Michigan's U.S. Postal Service, a Labor Relations Specialist, a Grievance and Arbitration Specialist, a Trainer in Parliamentary Procedure, and other various positions. Bishop Bland has performed workshops, seminars, and classes for the Detroit City Clerk's Office, Wayne State University, Michigan State and University of Michigan; **and**

**WHEREAS,** **BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND**'s commitment and dedication to community service in the City of Detroit has been unwavering and steadfast. His leadership is admirable and aspirational and we take today to recognize the immense value Bishop Fletcher Bland brings to the great City of Detroit. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the **DETROIT CITY COUNCIL** and office of **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE MARY SHEFFIELD**, wishes to take this opportunity to celebrate, honor and recognize **BISHOP FLETCHER BLAND** for being elevated to the Office of Presiding Bishop of Right Hands Fellowship International Ministries, being consecrated to the Office of Bishop in 2014, and his conferred Doctorate of Humane Letters by Union Baptist Seminary School.

CITY CLERK 2019 JUN 19 PM8:28

*Mary Sheffield* *Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Jane S. Lyon*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

*Scott B.*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Rachel Castañeda-Torrey*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Barbara J. Spring*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Andie J. Spring*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*James Gatt*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 15, 2019

DATE